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Guyana
Orig. People's Temple

Sect Members Were Drilled In Suicide, Defectors Report

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Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 20 — "He has mass suicide drills, where he tells all the people, hundreds of people, to drink a certain drink, and he says, 'That's fatal, you're all going to die in 45 minutes, I want to see how you feel about dying for socialism.'"

And, said Timothy Stoen, a San Francisco lawyer and former aide to Jim Jones, the founder of the People's Temple, when Mr. Jones ordered his followers in his Guyana commune to drink the liquid, "everybody drank."

'Blue-Eyed Monster' Is Described

"It was like he wanted to believe he was God," Anna Mobley, a member for four years, said. "He would get you so tired it would make you lose your mind."

"He had something; they called the 'blue-eyed monster,' a thing they did to

children," another former member said. "They took children into a dark room and attached electrodes to them and then shocked them and told them never not to smile at Jim Jones."

"He sent spies to our home and said that if we didn't sell all our property, we would die," said Wayne Medlock, the owner of a Los Angeles maintenance company, who turned over two of his homes to the cult under threats.

The remarks were made at a meeting of a group called the Human Freedom Foundation, which was set up here last summer by two psychics, Maria Papapetros and Jenita Cargile; after some members had sought them out for counseling to "deprogram" themselves. A recording

of the meeting was made available to The New York Times.

According to former members, the cult was run as a police state by Mr. Jones, who was said to have enforced discipline by beatings and death threats; pursued bizarre sexual activities, and indoctrinated members in his personal brand of agrarian socialism.

According to Mr. Stoen, Mr. Jones first enticed members with a doctrine of selflessness and a simple Christian faith of social equality that found support among blacks and upper middle-class whites who had become alienated in the 1960's.

Once he got "control of their minds, he would accept no dissent and told members that a defector had no right to live," Mr. Stoen said. He is a former deputy district attorney in Mendocino County who had been attracted by Mr. Jones's views in the late 1960's and became one of his lieutenants as the cult spread to San Francisco and Los Angeles and ultimately to the settlement in Guyana.

He said that as a sect official he had transferred more than \$3 million to foreign bank accounts and said he believed the church's assets probably totaled much more.

Mr. Stoen said "people who disagreed would get phone calls at 3 A.M. with heavy breathing" or cult officials would find a drunk and pay him to read a script containing threats over the telephone. The children of parents who decided to leave the sect were often seized and kept in Guyana under guard.

Sex Described as a Major Topic

Mr. Jones, he continued, had a "relationships committee" that had to approve all romantic entanglements among members. Once, Mr. Stoen said, there was a young woman who had been seeing a male cult member, and Mr. Jones forced her to engage in sexual relationships with another man before all 1,100 members of the commune.

"He was always talking about sex," Mr. Stoen said about the sect leader.

According to this account, Mr. Jones encouraged men and women to live in separate quarters. Married couples who insisted on staying together were required to live in bunk beds with a blanket providing their only privacy.

Mr. Stoen said Mr. Jones was "paranoid and always afraid," and turned away relatives of commune members. When newcomers arrived, he seized passport and money, holding them virtual prisoners, Mr. Stoen said.

Mr. Jones, he said, planned several escape routes from Guyana because he believed that the authorities might some day invade his commune and he "expected to go out with a splash."

Lawsuit Deposition Is Quoted

Allegations about the oppressive nature of Mr. Jones's leadership have emerged in lawsuits in California. One former member of the sect, Deborah Layton Blakey, said about Mr. Jones in a suit filed in San Francisco:

"He convinced Temple members that if they did not follow him to Guyana, they would be put into concentration camps and killed. White members were instilled with the belief that their names appeared on a secret list of enemies that was kept by the C.I.A. and that they would be tracked down, tortured, imprisoned and killed if they didn't flee to Guyana."

"At various times, Rev. Jones claimed that he was the reincarnation of either Lenin, Jesus Christ, or one of a variety of other religious or political figures. He claimed that he had divine powers and healed the sick. He stated that he had extrasensory perception and could tell what everyone was thinking. He said that he had powerful connections the world over, including the Mafia, Idi Amin and the Soviet Government."